

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00

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O R 231651Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4247

INFO USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRENCH DATA POSITION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MISTRAL CALLED IN EMBASSY OFFICER TO SAY THAT AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION AT HIGH LEVEL OF SUGGESTIONS PRESENTED BY FRENCH, BRITISH AND U.S., FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAS DECIDED THAT THE FRENCH MUST ADHERE TO THE POSITION THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY CANNOT BE LNCLUDED IN EITHER THE COMMON CEILING OR THE DATA BASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 23 MISTRAL (PACTS AND DISARMAMENT) CALLED IN EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER TO CONVEY FRENCH POSITION AFTER "LONG ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION" ON FRENCH POSITION. MISTRAL STATED THAT HE HAD EARLIER TODAY CALLED IN REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH AND GERMAN EMBAS-

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SIES AND DELIVERED TO THEM THE SAME OFFICIAL ORAL

COMMUNICATION ON INSTRUCTION OF FORELGN MINISTER
SAUVAGNARGUES.

3. MISTRAL NOTED THAT CONCERNING THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE INCLUSION OF THEIR FORCES IN GERMANY IN THE COMMON CEILING AND IN THE DATA BASE, THERE HAD BEEN TALKS IN BRUSSELS, APPROACHES BY RUTH (FRG) AND THOMSON (UK) IN PARIS, IN ADDITION TO THE DISCUSSION WITH HUMPHREYS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 5. FOLLOWING THESE CONVERSATIONS THE FRENCH HAD CONSIDERED TWO POSSIBLE FORMULAS:

-- THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY MIGHT SOMEHOW BE INCLUDED UNDER A FORMULA WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE THAT THEY BE ENUMERATED TO THE EAST BUT THAT SOMEHOW COMPENSATORY ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE.

-- THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY COULD BE INCLUDED IN DATA BASE BUT WITH THE DISCLAIMER THAT NO AGREEMENT WOULD BE BINDING ON FRENCH FORCES.

4. MISTRAL SAID THAT SAUVAGNARGUES IS SENSITIVE TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION, WHICH COULD COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH ALLIES. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH HAVE TWO FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO INCLUSION OF THE FRENCH FORCES UNDER THE COMMON CEILING IN ANY WAY:

-- SINCE THE BEGINNING THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN INTENT THAT THEIR FORCES WOULD NOT BE INTERMINGLED WITH MBFR EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

-- THE FRENCH ARE INTENT THAT THE SIZE OF FRENCH FORCES WOULD NOT COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS OR ANY EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

MISTRAL CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT OPTION THREE AND IN GENERAL ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT
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ANY LIMITS THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY DEVELOP ON EITHER FORCE LEVELS OR TYPES OF ARMAMENTS. MISTRAL THEN REITERATED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NO INTENTION TO PUT ROADBLOCKS IN THE PATH OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT DURING THE REVIEW THEY HAD EXAMINED ALL THE CONCEPTS THAT HAVE YET COME TO MIND. THE FRENCH DO NOT RULE OUT THAT SOME FURTHER IMAGINATION ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES MIGHT DEVELOP A FORMULA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE

A WAY OUT. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH SEE NO GREAT URGENCY IN SEARCHING FOR SUCH A FORMULA.

5. MISTRAL ADDED TWO OTHER POINTS. FIRST, HE ARGUED THAT FRENCH FORCES COMPRISE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF

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THE TOTAL ALLIED FORCES. THUS A RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT POSE A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM AMONG THE ALLIES. SECONDLY, MISTRAL SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT BE SURPRISED THAT THE FRENCH REFUSE TO HAVE THEIR FORCES COUNTED. MISTRAL SAID THAT DURING GROMYKO'S VISIT DURING APRIL, MBFR CAME UP IN THE CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES. GROMYKO ASKED SAUVAGNARGUES WHEN FRENCH FORCES WOULD EVENTUALLY BE INCLUDED IN MBFR. SAUVAGNARGUES REPLIED,

"NEVER; NOT NOW OR EVER." GROMYKO JESTINGLY ASKED IF THAT WOULD BE THE CASE IN 20 YEARS. SAUVAGNARGUES REPLIED, "YES."

6. COMMENT: REGRETABLY BUT NOT SURPRISINGLY THE FRENCH HAVE NOT GIVEN AN INCH. MISTRAL TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AT HIGH LEVEL
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AND THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WAS AWARE OF THE FULL RANGE OF DETAIL INVOLVED. MISTRAL'S COMMENT THAT THE FRENCH SEE NO URGENCY IN FINDING A RESOLUTION INDICATES THAT WE WILL HEAR NO MORE FROM THEM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE ALLIES HAVE COME UP WITH A NEW FORMULA OR SET OF OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE OFFERED TO THE QUAL.
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